

UNEMPLOYED NOW
NUMBERED 11,470,000

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Since January is weighted more heavily at work. The weighted figures are as follows, showing the per cent of membership out of work each month: 1939: January, 13.3 per cent; February, 12.7 per cent; March, 12.0 per cent. Last year: January, 16.2 per cent; March, 17.2 per cent.

"Trade union figures also show that employment gains have not yet been large enough to restore the losses of the 1939 recession. Last March, 44

per cent in our building tradesmen were out of work; this year building unemployment has been reduced to 23 per cent, but this is still above the 1937 level, when 20 per cent were out of work in March. In metal trades, 1938 losses have been even harder to regain. Figures for March show: 19 per cent of the metal trades membership out of work, compared to 24 per cent last year, and only 9 per cent in 1937. In printing, unemployment has dropped from 16 per cent last year to 12 per cent this year in March, but is still above 1937 when only 10 per cent were out of work.

"The Federation unemployment estimate for all workers in the United States continues to show that workers in general have fared much worse than trade union members. While union unemployment is now well below last year's depression levels, unemployment of all workers is still above last year. Our estimate for February, 1939, shows 11,470,000 out of work, compared with 11,123,000 in February last year and 8,960,000 in February, 1937.

"Nevertheless there have been very definite gains in the general employment situation this year, contrasting with the layoffs which were still widespread at this time last year. In February, 1939, 167,000 went back to work, while 150,000 were laid off in February last year. Farmers took on 150,000 this year with the opening of spring work, compared to only 119,000 last year. Factories took back 85,000 this year, compared to 70,000 last year."

No Improvement Since 1935

"Even with these gains, however, unemployment is still at the levels of early 1935. In the 1938 recession, at the unemployment peak was reached in May 1938 with 11,000,000 out of work. In the last summer and fall more than 1,600,000 went back to work and reduced the figure to 10,370,000 in October. Winter unemployment

employment in January completely cancelled these gains, bringing the figure to 11,590,000, and February improvement still leaves us with 11,470,000 out of work. This compares with 11,419,000 in February, 1935.

WPA Projects Curtailed

"During this winter unemployment

"Relief rolls did not rise enough to make up for the failure of WPA work. From 1,629,000 households receiving direct relief in December the figure fell to 1,520,000 in January. In addition only 132,000 households received relief in February, 1939, there were 7,278,000 households receiving relief or WPA aid, other Federal aid, compared to 7,278,000 in January, 1939."

**PACIFIC COAST SEAMEN
VOTE ON SHIP STRIKE**
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to determine its action if the commission is using hiring halls in Seattle.

Mr. Lundberg said that Rear Admiral Henry S. Bond, who is chairman of the commission, had informed him that the commission had no course but to establish the hiring halls because, being a government agency, it could not discriminate between unions or individuals. The Sailors Union operates its own hiring

Mr. Lundberg declared establishment of government hiring halls would be "an entering wedge for the C. I. O." He also criticized what he said was the "unrealistic" proposal to put Eastern crews of four firefighters it is soon to transfer to service between Seattle and the Olympic Peninsula.

"It always has been the practice to send Pacific Coast sailors overland to bring ships from the Atlantic to the West coast. They are to operate from the West Coast," he said. "We want the commission to continue

that price. The company will build sixteen new ships for the service to the Orient and San Francisco, and that will involve many jobs for our seamen, and we don't want these ships to be filled with C. I. O. men from the Atlantic Coast," he said.

By either party in the case of the employed a year or over, otherwise only one week's notice is to be given. Disputes to be handled through Arbitration Board.

24, 1939, is to schedule until August 1.

Squad bosses, \$70. and over per week.

Senior-A, \$55 per week.

Senior-B, \$60 per week.

Junior, \$55 per week.

Contract negotiations were conducted by George H. Holland, president, and J. Lawrence Raitman, chairman of the Collective Bargaining and Labor Relations Committee of Guilford Local 66.